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THE RURAL DISTRICT OF ST. AUSTELL.

ANNUAL REPORTS

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health.

ST. AUSTELL:
PRINTED BY H. E. WARNE LTD.

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Medical Officer's Annual Report.

To the Chairman and Members of the
St. Austell Rural District Council.

MR. CHAIRMAN, MISS ROBERTS, AND GENTLEMEN,

At the request of the Minister of Health, my Annual Report for 1925 will be a survey of the last five years and consequently much that has been written in former reports will of necessity be repeated.

Sanitary progress for 1925 compares well with the five preceeding years, and only a few schemes remain to be carried out, and these will probably materialize in the near future when the country generally has obtained a more settled and prosperous condition.

The health of the district has been remarkably good during the last few years especially as regards infectious diseases, and this year stands out prominently.

The question of housing for the Working Classes is still acute and your Council will have to tackle this problem.

Your obedient servant,

E. G. ANDREW.

Natural and Social Conditions of the Area.

Area (in acres) before extension 56362, after 55220.
Population (Census 1921), 30914.
Population estimated 1925 before extension, 31812 after 27340.
Number of inhabited houses (1921), 7571.
Number of Families or separate occupiers (1921), 7698.
Rateable Value, £186,695.
Sum represented by a penny rate, £700.

St. Austell Rural District is situated in the centre and south of Cornwall; it is very hilly and in some parts rises to over 1,000 feet. Portions of the district border on the sea and possess attractive spots, as shewn by the increasing number of houses and visitors.

The chief industry is the China Clay Mining, and a large number of men are engaged. The industry has not been so flourishing as in the days before the war, on account of the universal depression and industrial unrest. Copper and Tin-mining which reached great prosperity some fifty years ago, is practically non-existent, due to the cheaper production of the metal in places such as Malay. Agriculture claims a good proportion of the population and fishing is carried on by a small percentage.

Apparently none of the occupations in this district are detrimental to the workers, excepting perhaps that some of the men in the clay areas are very exposed to damp, and work for long periods in water courses, which predisposes them to rheumatoid conditions.

On April 1st, 1925, the extension of the St. Austell Urban District resulted in 1142 acres with a population of about 4,000 being transferred from the St. Austell Parish.

St. Austell Rural District is divided into fourteen parishes, St. Austell, Roche, St. Blazey, Tywardreath, Mevagissey, Grampound, St. Dennis, Creed, St. Ewe, St. Stephens, St. Goran, St. Mewan, St. Michael Caerhays and St. Sampsons.

St. Austell is the largest and most populous of these.

Vital Statistics.

The total number of Births for the year was 483, of these 20 were illegitimate.

This gives a Birth Rate of 16.9 per thousand of the population, as compared with 19.7 for 1924.

The rate for England and Wales being 18.8.

This is the lowest rate since 1919 when it was 14.5.

Birth Rate, 1921, 22.3 ; 1922, 20.7 ; 1923, 19.9 ; 1924, 19.7 ; 1925, 16.9.

The number of Deaths for 1925 was 356.

This gives a Death Rate of 12.5 per thousand of the population, compared with 12.9 for 1924. This is a rate a little higher than given for England and Wales which was 12.2.

Death Date, 1921, 11.6 ; 1922, 12.2 ; 1923, 13.0 ; 1924, 12.9 ; 1925, 12.5.

The chief causes of Death were as follows :—

1.	Cancer	44	(Males 14, Females 30)
2.	Heart Disease	41	
3.	Tuberculous Diseases	24	
4.	Bronchitis	22	
5.	Cerebral Haemorrhage	19	

A disquieting fact is that Cancer, as in 1923, heads the death list, and gives a death rate of 1.5 per thousand of the population, and taking the total number of deaths the percentage is 9.1. The most recent research work points to a microbic origin, but a great deal of investigation will be required to confirm this theory. Early removal and expert treatment by X-rays and radium seem to give the only hope of recovery.

One woman died as the result of pregnancy, but none died from puerperal sepsis.

Infant Mortality.

The number of infants who died under the age of 1 year was 30, a decrease compared with 39 for 1924. The Infant Mortality Rate was therefore 62.1, which is the same rate as for 1924 and compares very favourably with the rate given for England and Wales, which is 75.

Twenty Infants died from General Debility, Malformation and Premature Birth. Four children died from diarrhoea. This good result, as I have mentioned in former reports, must be put down to increase of knowledge of hygiene, the influence of Health Visitors and the Welfare Centres.

I think perhaps more ante-natal care and supervision might still further lower the Mortality.

Infant Mortality, 1921, 60.6 ; 1922, 67.7 ; 1923, 63.1 ; 1924, 62.1 ; 1925, 62.1.

Causes of Sickness.

The year 1925 has been an extremely healthy one, especially as regards infectious diseases.

No schools were closed on account of epidemics, but there were a few cases of Mumps, Chicken Pox, and Measles at St. Sampsons, Bugle and Lanjeth, respectively.

In 1924, St. Michael Caerhays school was closed for two weeks on account of influenza and St. Dennis for 17 days for Measles and Chicken Pox. During 1923, Treverbyn Infants School was closed for 5 weeks in April and May, and Gorran in October and November for 3 weeks for Measles. Measles necessitated the closing of Coombe School for one month in 1921.

Sanitary Circumstances.

Water and Drainage. The district on the whole is well supplied with water, which is of excellent quality, one exception is the supply of Mevagissey which is quite inadequate; many sources have been tapped and Autumnal guagings taken for many years, but up to the present no solution of the problem has been found. It will probably be necessary to fall back on a pumping system from a low level where plenty of water is present. This will naturally incur a greater expense.

The supply of St. Blazey, Par and Tywardreath, although receiving water from several sources is not entirely satisfactory during a dry season and an augmentation from Starrick Moor to No. 1 Reservoir seems to be the only method of getting over the difficulty.

Gorran Haven which is becoming such a favourite holiday resort, is often seriously short of water in

summer and as the number of houses is increasing, schemes for water and drainage will be necessary in the near future. The present way of disposing with refuse and much sewage down a shute to the beach is very crude and objectionable.

During the last five years your Council has been able to show a remarkable record in providing water and drainage systems in different parts of the District. This has been due in a great degree to the abnormal conditions owing to the War, which resulted in schemes being started for the Unemployed aided by Government Grants.

The following schemes which had been advocated for many years by successive Medical Officers have been completed, viz :—

Roche. A Drainage System (filter beds) and a water supply. The water is obtained from Colvreath and it is elevated to a 50,000 gallon Reservoir on Hensbarrow by means of Blakes Rams.

St. Dennis. Drainage and Water Systems. The water is supplied from the old Crown Mine Shaft and pumped by Campbell's Oil Engines to a 50,000 gallon Reservoir. The sewage is treated at Bodella Moor in two Sedimentation Tanks and Clinker beds, and the effluent is ultimately discharged into the River Fal.

St. Stephens Churchtown, High Street, Foxhole and Carpella. These places now have their piped water supplies which is obtained from Hornick (100,000 gallons) and High Street (50,000 gallons). The supply is of good quality and is ample for these places and future extensions.

St. Stephens Churchtown Drainage. This scheme was completed in 1922. The Sewage is discharged into Sedimentation Tanks and filter beds at Gwindra and Terras. The system is working very satisfactorily.

Foxhole and Carpella. This Scheme was completed in 1923. The Sedimentation Tanks and filter beds are situated at Lower Carpella ; this system is also working admirably.

Nanpean The Sewage System was begun this year and will be completed during 1926. The site of the Tanks and filter beds is near Goonamarris.

Pentewan. This picturesque little seaport now possesses its Water and Drainage Systems. The Water comes from Levalsa ; and the sewage empties into the sea on the eastern side of the Quay.

Stenalees. Is now well supplied from the new shaft at Hallaze. The water is pumped to a Reservoir on Carloggas Downs, which has a capacity of 500,000 gallons.

Bugle. The supply for this place is at Stenalees, but can be augmented from Carloggas Reservoir when necessary. Drainage for the above places was completed in 1922. The Tanks and Filter Beds are at Molinnis.

Bethel, Boscoppa and Holmbush. A drainage scheme has been started, and will be completed early in 1926. The sewage is conveyed by pipes to the sea near Crinnis Beach.

Carn Grey and Trethurgy. Were supplied with water from the Penwithick Reservoir in 1923.

Mevagissey. Was sewered in 1923. The outfall is situated at the north-east of the Quay. This system will be much more valuable when the much needed water supply has been obtained. The method of disposing refuse and sewage down two shutes on the eastern side of the Quay is very antiquated and objectionable.

St. Blazey, Par and Tywardreath. This important drainage scheme was completed in 1924, after contending with many difficulties, due to the low lying and swampy nature of the ground. The outfall is at Spit Beach.

In 1922 a Reservoir was constructed at Polharmon which helped to increase the existing supplies from Starrick Moor and Prideaux. There are now three Reservoirs serving this district : viz. No. 1 at Bodelva (fed from Starrick), No. 2 at Prideaux and No. 3 at Polharmon. Even now the supply at times is insufficient and it is considered that a new main from the Starrick Moor source to No. 1 Reservoir will meet the situation and this will probably be carried out in 1926.

Schemes Which Still Remain to be Carried Out.

Water Supply for Mevagissey. (Urgently needed).
Water Supply and Drainage for Trewoon.
Water Supply for Carthew and Ruddlemoor.
Water Supply and Drainage for Trethosa and Treviscoe.
Water Supply for Central Treviscoe.
Augmentation of Water for Nanpean.

Public Conveniences. Are urgently needed in the following places :—Bugle, Stenalees, St. Blazey, Pentewan, Spit Beach and St. Dennis.

General Housing Conditions.

The Council is to be congratulated on its efforts to relieve the shortage of houses in the District; 330 Houses were erected in 1921 and 1922, 78 of these have come under the authority of the Urban Council since the extension of their boundaries. St. Austell Rural District Council created a record and built more houses than any other Rural District in the South West Region.

In spite of this the shortage is still very acute, especially in the more densely populated districts.

There are many houses which should be closed, but under present conditions, it is only possible to close the very worse.

Many notices have been served on the owners of various cottage properties to carry out repairs, and in most cases conditions have been improved, but many house owners find from economic reasons that it is quite impossible to do all that is required.

Overcrowding is still prevalent in the District and the problem of dealing with it, is very great; in some cases it has been found necessary for families to enter the Poor Law Institution.

There are a number of back-to-back houses, and generally the defects of houses are dampness, poor roofs and walls, windows which will not work properly, and launders which are either absent or unable to convey water. Since the completion of so many water schemes a large number of people have enjoyed the convenience of having water connected to their homes.

During the past 5 years many houses have been built, and the number per year is increasing steadily as shewn below —

	1921	1922	1923	1924	1925	
Private Houses Built	29	21	38	97	164	349
Provided by Local Authority			330			330
						679

Some 283 houses were built by private enterprise with subsidy, and 66 houses by private enterprise alone.

The 164 houses built during 1925 were generally of the artizan-parlour type.

As so many water and drainage schemes have been completed during the last five years, a large number of pail closets have been converted into water-closets. In some areas the results have been disappointing but this is in part due to the expense of converting the closets which an owner has to bear, and also perhaps sufficient time has not elapsed for them to appreciate the great advantages to be derived from a new sistem.

There are no streams in this District of much importance ; the stream running to Pentewan some four miles away is polluted by a part of the untreated sewerage of the St. Austell Urban District, and a few houses in the Rural District but like most of the streams it is polluted with China Clay so that the water cannot be used for drinking or cleansing purposes.

Scavenging. Most areas are well and regularly served by Scavengers ; the more general use of incinerators

would be of great value, it would do away with large dumps which are often breeding grounds for rats. Pentewan at present is the only place which possesses one.

Meat Inspection. The regulations of 1925 are very difficult to carry out in an efficient manner, the area is large, the slaughter houses are 32 in number, and pig killing is very frequent. The Council appointed the Medical Officer and Mr. Bendle as Inspectors, and many inspections have been made. Two carcases (portions) were condemned.

The ideal method is to have central abattoirs. The use of the Humane-Killer is enforced in this District in accordance with a bye-law.

Dairies, Cowsheds and Milkshops.

The usual inspections have been carried out and there is a decided improvement in cleanliness and hygienic requirements; but there is still room for advance. There are some 300 Registered Dairymen in the area covered by your Council.

I regret no one has applied for the licence to sell Grade "A" Milk; it is being imported from an area outside, and in increasing quantities, so that as time goes on no doubt other dairymen will be compelled to follow suit.

Slaughter Houses.

Although a great improvement has taken place in the Slaughter houses the conditions are not ideal in many instances. More use should be made of lime for washing walls. The ground in the immediate vicinity

is often in a dirty state, and some owners seem quite content if allowed, for things to go on in the same way. There are 32 Slaughter-houses in the district of which 4 are licensed and the remainder are Registered.

Bake Houses.

These are generally in good condition; minor repairs, and occasional lime washing have been needed. There are no underground bakeries.

Factories and Workshops.

There are few Factories in the District, but many Workshops. These on the whole are in a fair state.

General Provision of Health Service in the Area. Hospitals Provided or Subsidised by the Local Authority or the County Council.

1. *Tuberculosis.* The County Sanatorium is at Tehidy, near Camborne, and is provided by the County Council. The Rural Council pay an Annual amount to the Didworthy Sanatorium in Devon, and a few cases are treated there.

2. *Maternity and Children's Hospitals.* None are specially provided, but a few beds at Redruth Hosiptal have been allocated for serious maternity cases. This arrangement has been made by the County Council and any case from the County can be sent there. The Poor Law Institution is the only Institutional provision for unmarried mothers, illegitimate infants and homeless children.

3. *Fever Hospital.* There is at present none in the locality, although a site had been procured and plans drawn several years ago. It was to be a joint Hospital for the Rural and Urban Districts. This hospital is greatly needed in the District.

4. *Small Pox Hospital.* No dwelling has been set aside for this Fever, but a site has been acquired at Hensbarrow, near Roche, and huts will be provided in cases of emergency.

5. *General Hospitals.* There is a Cottage Hospital at St. Austell containing beds, and over 300 patients were treated there last year, and it possesses an X-ray instalment. A large number of patients are admitted to the Royal Infirmary, Truro, some 14 miles away, and a lesser number are treated at the South Devon and East Cornwall Hospital, Plymouth.

Ambulance facilities. Last yeat a new and up-to-date Austin Ambulance replaced the old Buick, and the District benefits in a very high degree as shown by the facts that 89 patients were carried, and 2457 miles were covered. The services rendered by the staff, which is voluntary, is greatly appreciated.

Clinics and Treatment Centres. Maternity and Child Welfare Centres. There are two centres in the district ; one is established in the town of St. Austell, and the other at St. Blazey. The Medical Practitioners give instructions and advice and are helped by the District Nurses.

Day Nurseries. There are none in the District.

School Clinics. These clinics are provided by the County Council and are in charge of the County School Medical Officer.

Tuberculosis Dispensaries. There is one dispensary situated in the town of St. Austell. This is under the County Council Authority, and the County Tuberculosis Officer attends once a week and visits any cases in the district if required.

Veneral Diseases Centres. There is one treatment centre in Cornwall, at Tuckingmill, near Redruth; this is under the authority of the County Council. Cases can also be treated at the Plymouth Centre.

Public Health Officers of the Local Authority. The Medical Officer of Health (part time) who is also Medical Officer to the St. Austell Poor Law Institution and Public Vaccinator to the No. 2 District, St. Austell.

The Sanitary Inspectors are Mr. J. W. Simcox and Mr. S. P. Bendle; both hold the Royal Sanitary Institute Certificate, and the latter with the Medical Officer of Health were appointed Meat Inspectors by the Rural Council.

The salaries of the above officers are paid in part by the Local Authority and the Ministry of Health.

Miss Housman is the Health Visitor; she also works in conjunction with the Tuberculosis Officer at the St. Austell Dispensary.

Professional Nursing in the Home.

General. (a) Most of the Nursing in the District is done by the District Nurses. The three Nurses who reside in the Urban District also have a large Rural area designed to them, and there are also District Nurses in the following places:—Bugle, Roche, Stenalees, St. Blazey, Grampound and St. Dennis.

Infectious Diseases. (b) In certain cases where treatment and nursing cannot be undertaken satisfactorily arrangements can be made with the County

Council to provide nurses. There are no specialized nurses in the district.

Midwives. There are no Midwives employed or subsidised by the Local Authority. A large proportion of the Midwifery is carried out by the District Nurses. There are also in addition ~~several~~ some 15 registered Midwives practising in this district.

Notifiable Diseases.

The year 1925 was remarkable for the small number of cases notified. The total number excluding Tuberculosis was 28, compared with 49 for 1924. There has been a striking diminuation of these diseases during the last few years as will be seen in the table appended. The greatly improved sanitary conditions of the district may in part explain this desirable improvement, but not wholly. It is noticable that about 20 years ago the same conditions existed, and it is quite possible that epidemics run in cycles and that the present time means we are at the trough of the wave, and that cases will gradually increase again.

Scarlet Fever. Ten cases were notified; this is the lowest received since 1903. The cases were mild and no deaths resulted.

Diphtheria. Four cases were reported. This is the lowest received (except 1922) since 1907. The cases were of a mild type and there were no deaths.

Typhoid. The district is apparently free from this serious disease, one doubtful case only being notified during the last five years. There was one case of Para-typhoid, and there have been three cases of this less important disease during the last five years.

Pneumonia. Although there was an increase of notifications during the year, viz. nine, compared with five for 1924, there was a decrease in the number of deaths, there being eleven compared with seventeen.

Poliomyelitis and Encephalitis. None reported for 1925.

Puerperal Fever. No cases were notified.

Ophthalmia Neonatorum. Two cases were notified but no permanent injury to the eyes resulted.

Erysipelas. There was only one case compared with nine for 1924. There were no deaths.

Tuberculosis.

Tuberculosis still holds a leading place among the Infectious Diseases and the Causes of Death.

The Statistics for 1925 do not vary very greatly from those of the last five years, but there is an improvement on the whole.

There were 24 deaths from all forms of Tuberculosis (14 pulmonary and 10 Non-pulmonary); this compares with 35 deaths, (28 pulmonary and 7 Non-pulmonary) for 1924.

The death rate per thousand of the population from this disease is ·8 as against 1·1 for 1924.

For the 24 deaths, 17 notifications were received.

During the year there were 37 new cases notified (25 pulmonary and 12 Non-pulmonary). This is an increase of 6 for non-pulmonary and 1 for pulmonary cases compared with 1924.

In spite of the closer supervision and the greater facilities provided for combating this disease the results are still disappointing.

Tuberculosis is a fiend which has no respect for persons—rich or poor—both being liable to be drawn within the vicious circle, no locality seems to be immune, the high lands and the low lands of the Country the towns and villages have their victims.

There is no doubt that an early diagnosis, gives the best chance for these cases. Persons with a persistent cough—loss of health—and poor appetite, should not hesitate to seek advice.

Laboratory.

Examinations of Swabs, Sputa, etc., are made and reports issued as soon as possible.

The following examinations were made during 1925 :—

	Positive.	Negative.	Total
Swabs for B Diphtheria	—	11	11
Sputa for B Tuberculosis	2	7	9
Widals Test for Enteric	—	2	2
			22

Water Analysis.

Three Water analysis were made during the year.

1. The spring at Penrice Wood, which was proposed to supply Tregorrick, contained too much peat and was quite unfit for Drinking purposes.

2. Two analysis were made of the water supply for Stenalees; the first was taken from the storing tank, and was found to be quite unsuitable for drinking purposes, due to vegetable matter.

3. The second was taken direct from Spring and this was found to be satisfactory in every respect.

Legislation in Force in the District.

The Council has adopted the following Acts :—

Public Health Act 1890, in part.
Public Health Act (Amendment) 1907 in part.
Infectious Diseases (Prevention) Act 1890.

Byelaws in respect to :—
New Streets and Buildings, 1925.
Dairies, Cowsheds and Milkshops, 1924.
Slaughter Houses, 1924.
Nuisances, 1903.
Vans, Tents and Sheds, 1921.

Birth and Death Rate, 1921-1925.

Year :—	1921	1922	1923	1924	1925
Birth Rate	22·3	20·7	19·9	19·7	16·9
England and Wales	22·4	20·6	19·7	18·8	18·3
Death Rate	11·6	12·2	13·0	12·9	12·5
England and Wales	12 1	12·9	11·6	12·2	12·2
Infant Mortality	60.6	67·7	63·1	62·1	62·1
England and Wales	83	77	69	75	75
Total Births	693	650	633	628	483*
Illegitimate	43	30	35	20	20
Total Deaths	361	391	414	413	356*

*Portion of area transferred April 1st, 1925.

Table Shewing the Number of Deaths from Certain Diseases during the Last 5 Years.

Year	1921	1922	1923	1924	1925	Total
Small Pox	—	—	—	—	—	—
Scarlet Fever	—	—	—	—	—	—
Diphtheria	1	—	1	—	—	2
Enteric Fever	—	1	—	1	—	2
Measles	7	—	—	1	1	9
Whooping Cough	—	1	3	2	—	6
Diarrhœa (under 2 years)	—	2	—	2	4	8
Puerperal Fever	—	—	1	—	—	1
Cancer Malignant Disease	30	40	52	35	44	201
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	26	31	26	28	14	125
Other forms of Tuberculosis	9	4	7	7	10	37
Rare Diseases	1*	1*	—	—	1†	3

*Poliomyelitis.
†Meningococcal Meningitis.

Meat Poisoning. An outbreak occurred at Mevagissey last June ; some 20 persons after partaking of some tinned tongue, became seriously ill, but all recovered within a few days.

The suspected meat was sent to the Ministry of Health, but the result of the examination was not conclusive as to whether the cause of the outbreak was bacterial, or otherwise.

Anthrax. A bullock was found to be infected with Anthrax near St. Dennis. All the necessary precautions were taken.

Small Pox. There have been no cases in the district for a great number of years. The Rural Council have procured a site at Hensbarrow, near Roche, and should this disease occur it will be dealt with immediately.

Vaccinations. During the year about 29% of the children born were vaccinated.

Disinfection. The only means of disinfecting by a disinfector is by one possessed by the St. Austell Union. Both the Rural and Urban Districts make considerable use of it, by the courtesy of the Guardians. The Council have two men in the Western and Eastern areas respectively, for the work of house disinfection. After an infectious illness has taken place disinfection is carried out in all cases notified to the Authorities, and at other times when required.

The Sanitary Inspectors supervise this work.

Notifiable Diseases, 1921-1925.

Year :—	1921	1922	1923	1924	1925	Total
Small Pox	—	—	—	—	—	—
Scarlet Fever	52	49	69	23	10	203
Diphtheria	5	4	5	11	4	29
Enteric Fever	—	1	2	—	1	4
Puerperal Fever	—	—	1	1	—	2
Erysipelas	—	2	5	9	1	17
Pnuemonia	—	7	6	5	9	27
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	28	21	27	24	25	125
Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis	6	7	4	6	12	35

1925.—INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

Analysis of Cases and Resulting Deaths.

	Under 1 year	1 year	5 years	10 years	15 years	20 years	25 years	35 years	45 years	55 years	65 years & over
SCARLET FEVER											
Notifications 10	—	3	5	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	—
Deaths ..... nil.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
DIPHTHERIA											
Notifications 4	—	1	1	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	—
Deaths ..... nil.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
PNEUMONIA											
Notifications 9	—	1	1	—	—	1	2	2	1	1	—
Deaths 9	1	2	—	—	—	1	—	2	—	—	3
OPHTHALMIA NEONATORUM											
Notifications 2	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Deaths ..... nil.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
ERYSIPELAS											
Notifications 1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Deaths ..... nil.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
CEREBRO-SPINAL F.											
Notifications 1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Deaths 1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
ENTERIC FEVER (INCLUDING PARATYPHOID)											
Notifications 1	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
Deaths ..... nil.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

Tuberclosis.

Age Period.	New Cases.				Deaths.			
	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0 Year	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	—
10	—	1	2	—	1	—	2	—
15	—	2	1	1	—	1	—	3
20	2	4	1	2	—	1	—	3
25	2	5	—	1	2	2	—	—
35	2	—	—	3	1	2	—	1
45	2	—	—	—	1	—	1	—
45	2	—	—	—	1	—	1	—
55	2	1	—	—	1	—	—	—
65 and upwards	—	1	—	—	—	1	—	1
Total.	10	14	5	8	6	7	3	8

Summary of Sanitary Work Carried out in the District for the Year Ending 31st December, 1925.

Water Certificates granted	164
Sewers cleansed and repaired	120
Petroleum stores inspected	72

JOHN W. SIMCOX, M.I.M. & C.E., M.S.I.A.

Sanitary Surveyor and Inspector.

Informal Notices issued	714
Statutory Notices issued	199
Dirty Houses cleansed	5
Overcrowding abated	5
Slaughter-house inspections	49
Tent and Vans inspections	21
Factory and Workshops inspections	29
Bakehouse inspections	18
Dairies and Cowsheds inspections	142
New Drains laid	192
Drains cleansed and repaired	145
Closet accommodation provided	28
Closets repaired, converted, etc.	160
Nuisances from keeping animals, etc.	10
Nuisances from accumulations	25
Wells repaired, cleansed, etc.	4
Cesspools cleansed	6
Houses disinfected	51
Samples of Water taken for analysis	3

SYDNEY P. BENDLE, A.R.San.I., M.S.I.A.

Sanitary Inspector.

Housing.

(a) Total number erected by private owners 164
(b) as part of the Council Housing Scheme Nil

1. *Unfit Dwelling Houses.*

Inspection—(1) Total number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects under Public Health and Housing Acts. 1122

(2) Number of dwelling houses which were inspected under Housing (Inspection of District) Regulations, 1910 941

(3) Number of dwelling houses found to be in a state so dangerous as to be unfit for human habitation 7

(4) Number of dwelling houses (exclusive of those referred to under preceding sub-heading) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation 894*

2. *Remedy of Defects without Service of formal Notice.*

Number of defective dwelling houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers. 489*

3. *Action under Statutory Powers.*

A.—Proceedings under Section 28 of the Housing, Town Planning, etc., Act, 1909, and the Housing Act, 1925

(1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs 91

(2) Number of dwelling houses which were rendered fit :—

(a) by owners 57
(b) by Local Authority in default of owners Nil

(3) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Closing Orders became operative in pursuance of declaration of owners of intention to close — Nil

B.—Proceedings under Public Health Acts

(1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied — 249*

(2) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which defects were remedied

(a) by owners — 65*

(b) by Local Authority in default of owners — Nil

NOTE *The reason for the disparity between these figures is as follows :—

A house-to-house inspection was made in a certain parish where a considerable portion of the cottage property is owned by one Estate. Owing to their number, and to the extent of the defects, the necessary repairs to the property will of necessity take a considerable time.

C.—Proceedings under Sections 17 and 18 of the Housing, Town Planning, etc., Act, 1909

(1) Number of representations made with a view to the making of Closing Orders — 7

(2) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Closing Orders were made — 7

(3) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the dwelling houses having been rendered fit — 1

(4) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made — Nil

(5) Number of dwelling houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders — Nil

1926.

THE RURAL DISTRICT OF ST. AUSTELL.

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health,

ST. AUSTELL:
PRINTED BY H. E. WARNE LTD.

Medical Officer's Annual Report.

To the Chairman and Members of the
St. Austell Rural District Council.

Mr. Chairman, Miss Roberts and Gentlemen,

In presenting my Report for 1926 I would point out that progression in Sanitary matters has been carried out in the traditional manner, and the question of Housing should be one of your chief considerations in the future. The year, as in 1925, has been a very healthy one and is remarkable for the fact that not a single case of Diphtheria was notified in the whole District.

Your obedient servant,

E. G. ANDREW.

Natural and Social Conditions of the Area.

Area (in acres), 55220
Population (as given by the Registrar General), 26940
Number of Inhabited Houses (1921), 7571
Number of Families or Separate occupiers, 1921, 7698
Rateable Value, £158,731.
Sum represented by a penny rate, £660.

St. Austell Rural District is situated in the middle and South of Cornwall. The District is hilly and large areas are mined for China Clay which is the most important industry. In the South which borders on the sea, are many pretty and attractive spots, and every year sees more visitors, and houses are being erected at an increasing rate. Agriculture plays an important part in the district and an appreciable amount of fishing is carried on in the villages dotted along the coast. The flourishing centres for tin and copper mining of byegone days, have practically disappeared owing to importation from the Malay and other places where production is less costly.

St. Austell Rural District is divided into fourteen parishes of which St. Austell Rural is the largest and most populous.

Vital Statistics.

Birth Rate. There were 529 births during the year, of which 21 were illegitimate. This gives a rate of 19.6 per thousand of the population, compared with with 16.9 for 1925. The rate for England and Wales was 17.8.

Death Rate. The number of Deaths for 1926 was 341. This gives a death rate of 12.6 per thousand of

the population, compared with 12.5 for 1925. The rate for England and Wales was 11.6.

It will be noted that the Birth Rate has increased since last year and also that it is greater than that given for England and Wales ; on the other hand there has been a fractional increase in the Death Rate and also it is higher than that given for England and Wales.

The Chief Causes of Death.

1. Heart Disease	51	
2. Cancer	30	(Males 15, Females 15).
3. Tuberculous Diseases	27	
3. Cerebral Hæmorrhage	27	
4. Bronchitis	24	

Cancer which occupied the first place last year with 44 deaths, has dropped to the second position with 30 deaths ; this gives a death rate for Cancer of 1.1 per thousand of the population compared with 1.5 for 1925. The percentage for the total number of deaths is 8.7, that for 1925 being 9.1.

Deaths from Tuberculosis numbered 27, an increase of two cases on 1925, but the position remains the same.

There were no deaths from puerperal sepsis ; but two women died as the result of pregnancy.

Infant Mortality.

Thirty-four Infants died under the age of 1 year, an increase of four compared with 1925. The Death rate was therefore 64.2 which is higher than for 1925 when it was 62.1. This rate compares very favourably with 70, which is that given for England and Wales.

Twenty-three deaths were due to Congenital Debility and premature births, three infants died from Diarrhœa and one from Whooping Cough. There were no deaths from Measles.

The continuance of this favourable Infant Mortality Rate is no doubt due to the wider dissemination of knowledge and the increasing improvements in environment.

Causes of Sickness.

The year 1926 like 1925 was a healthy one. No Schools were closed for infectious diseases, but Chicken Pox, Measles, and Mumps were present intermittently during the year, and the outbreaks were limited chiefly to the Western part of the District. Biscovey, Nanpean and St. Dennis Schools had Chicken Pox in the Infant Departments; Measles was prevalent at Grampound and Bugle; Mumps at Caerhays and Coombe, and Whooping Cough at Mevagissey.

Sanitary Circumstances.

Water and Drainage. The District generally is well supplied with water of excellent quality, the great exception being that of Mevagissey. This place is growing and would increase still more if the water problem could be solved. The latest proposition was to convey water from Trewhiddle near St. Austell, but the results of the analysis shewed the supply to be contaminated and unfit for drinking purposes.

To augment the water supply to St. Blazey, Par and Tywardreath the work of laying a six inch main from Starrick Moor to No. 1 Reservoir was begun last

October, this connection will be completed in 1927, when it is hoped the supply for this area will then prove adequate.

The drainage and water systems for Nanpean, which were commenced in 1925, are now completed. The tank and filter beds are near Goonamarris, and the water supply is conveyed from the Reservoir at Hornick Both systems are giving satisfaction.

Trethosa, Treviscoe and Central Treviscoe. A water water supply and drainage system for these places have been started, and will be completed in 1927. Like Nanpean the water comes from the Hornick Reservoir.

During the year a water supply has been carried to Caudle Downs by means of a Main from Stenalees.

It will be seen from the above that your energetic and progressive Council has been able to begin or complete some Schemes, which although perhaps not so extensive as in former years, are nevertheless very important.

The inhabitants of the following places are very anxious to obtain a water supply.

Carthew and Ruddlemoor. This could be done by laying a main from the Reservoir at Carloggas and conveying it down the valley in which these places are situated.

Trewoon. This place could easily be supplied by utilising Hembal Spring and ramming to Carne, where a Reservoir of 30,000 gallons would be fixed, this would be at such a height as to suffice present and future needs.

Sticker and Trelowth. Water can be supplied to these places in a similar way to the above, by using the village spring at Sticker and Retanning Spring. This would be rammed to the old Quarry near the main road, where a reservoir of 27,000 gallons would be built.

CONVENIENCES.

The following places have been provided since my last report, viz.—Bugle, Stenalees and St. Blazey.

Conveniences are urgently needed at St. Stephens, St. Dennis, Pentewan and Spit Beach, especially at the last two places, where large numbers of people congregate during the summer. Complaints have been many as regards Spit Beach.

General Housing Conditions.

The remarks I have made in former reports as regards houses still hold. Houses are badly needed especially in the industrial regions for artizans at a small rental.

There are families still in the Poor Law Institution who would make use of houses if such were available.

There are still a number of back-to-back houses in various localities, and houses almost unfit for habitation but little can be done at present.

The considerable unemployment that prevails accentuates the need for houses of a low rental. Overcrowding is prevalent and to deal with it adequately is a very difficult question.

During the year 96 houses were built which were chiefly of the cottage type, and in most cases advantage was taken of the Subsidy. There is a considerable decrease in the number of houses erected compared with 1925, when 164 were built.

Scavenging.

Is on the whole well carried out in the more populated districts, but the undoubted value of incinerators has only been realized by the inhabitants of Pentewan.

Meat Inspection.

As there are no central abattoirs, meat inspection is carried on under great difficulties, owing to the wide area with 33 slaughter houses. During the year one carcase (part) was condemned.

Slaughter-houses.

The conditions of Slaughter-houses are steadily improving; but they require constant supervision. There are 33 Slaughter-houses in the district of which 28 are registered and 5 are licensed.

Dairies, Cowsheds and Milkshops.

The usual inspections are carried out and marked progress has been made under the new 1926 Act. There are over 500 Registered Dairymen in your district and these inspections mean an enormous amount of work.

Bakehouses.

These are on the whole in good condition—minor repairs and lime washing being occasionally required. There are no underground bakeries.

Factories and Workshops.

There are few factories in the district, but many workshops, which are on the whole in a fair condition.

General Provision of Health Service in the Area. Hospitals Provided or Subsidised by the Local Authority or the County Council.

1. *Tuberculosis.* The County Sanatorium is at Tehidy, near Camborne, and is provided by the County Council. The Rural Council pay an Annual amount to the Didworthy Sanatorium in Devon, and a few cases are treated there.

2. *Maternity and Children's Hospitals.* None are specially provided, but a few beds at Redruth Hosiptal have been allocated for serious maternity cases. This arrangement has been made by the County Council and any case from the County can be sent there. The Poor Law Institution is the only Institutional provision for unmarried mothers, illegitimate infants and homeless children.

3. *Fever Hospital.* There is at present none in the locality, although a site had been procured and plans drawn several years ago. It was to be a joint Hospital for the Rural and Urban Districts. This hospital is greatly needed in the District.

4. *Small Pox Hospital.* No dwelling has been set aside for this Fever, but a site has been acquired at Hensbarrow, near Roche, and huts will be provided in cases of emergency.

5. *General Hospitals.* There is a Cottage Hospital at St. Austell containing 30 beds and an X-ray instrument. A large number of patients are admitted to the Royal Infirmary, Truro, some 14 miles away, and a lesser number are treated at the South Devon and East Cornwall Hospital, Plymouth.

Ambulance facilities. Two years ago a new and up-to-date Austin Ambulance replaced the old Buick, and the District benefits in a very high degree as shewn by the facts that during that period 119 patients were carried, and 2018 miles were covered. The services rendered by the staff which is voluntary, is greatly appreciated.

Clinics and Treatment Centres. Maternity and Child Welfare Centres. There are two centres in the district ; one is established in the town of St. Austell, and the other at St. Blazey. The Medical Practitioners give instructions and advice and are helped by the District Nurses.

Day Nurseries. There are none in the District.

School Clinics. These clinics are provided by the County Council and are in charge of the County School Medical Officer.

Tuberculosis Dispensaries. There is one dispensary situated in the town of St. Austell. This is under the County Council Authority, and the County Tuberculosis Officer attends once a week and visits any cases in the district if required.

Venereal Diseases Centres. There is one treatment centre in Cornwall, at Tuckingmill, near Redruth ; this is under the authority of the County Council. Cases can also be treated at the Plymouth Centre.

Public Health Officers of the Local Authority. The Medical Officer of Health (part time) who is also Medical Officer to the St. Austell Poor Law Institution and Public Vaccinator to the No. 2 District, St. Austell.

The Sanitary Inspectors are Mr. J. W. Simcox and Mr. S. P. Bendle; both hold the Royal Sanitary Institute Certificate, and the latter with the Medical Officer of Health were appointed Meat Inspectors by the Rural Council.

The salaries of the above officers are paid in part by the Local Authority and the Ministry of Health.

Miss Housman is the Health Visitor; she also works in conjunction with the Tuberculosis Officer at the St. Austell Dispensary.

Professional Nursing in the Home.

General. (a) Most of the Nursing in the District is done by the District Nurses. The three Nurses who reside in the Urban District also have a large Rural area allocated to them, and there are also District Nurses in the following places:—Bugle, Roche, Stenalees, St. Blazey, Grampound and St. Dennis.

Infectious Diseases. (b) In certain cases where treatment and nursing cannot be undertaken satisfactorily arrangements can be made with the County Council to provide nurses. There are no specialized nurses in the district.

Midwives. There are no Midwives employed or subsidised by the Local Authority. A large proportion of the Midwifery is carried out by the District Nurses. There are also in addition some 17 registered Midwives practising in this district.

Notifiable Diseases.

The year 1926, like 1925, has been exceptionally good as regards Notifiable Diseases. A remarkable fact was that no case of Diphtheria was reported in the whole District, and only 11 cases of Scarlet Fever compared with 10 for 1925, when the number was the lowest since 1903.

No use has been made of the Schick and Dick Tests.

The total number of cases notified (excluding Tuberculosis) was 37, in 1925 there were 27.

Scarlet Fever. Eleven cases were notified; they were of a mild type and no deaths resulted.

Diphtheria. No cases reported.

Enteric Fever. One case was notified. This compares with one doubtful case during the 5 previous years. There were no cases of Para-typhoid.

Pneumonia. Eleven cases of this Disease were notified, an increase of two on the previous year. There were 13 deaths (all forms).

Ophthalmia Neonatorum. Two cases were notified, the same as in 1925. No permanent injury resulted.

Acute Poliomyelitis. Two cases were reported, no deaths.

Encephalitis Lethargica. One case was notified, which recovered.

Puerperal Fever. One case reported, which recovered.

Erysipelas. Six cases were notified, compared with one and nine for 1925 and 1924 respectively; there were no deaths.

Tuberculosis.

This dread disease still holds a commanding position as the cause of death.....

There were 27 deaths (21 Pulmonary and 6 Non-Pulmonary) during 1926, as compared with 24 for 1925.

The Death Rate per thousand of the population is 1.0 as against .8 and 1.1 for 1925 and 1924 respectively. 20 Notifications were received for these 27 deaths.

During the year there were 46 new cases (35 Pulmonary and 11 Non-Pulmonary). This is an increase of 10 for Pulmonary and a decrease of 1 for Non-Pulmonary as compared with 1925.

Laboratory.

The following examinations were made during 1926 :—

	Positive	Negative	Total
Swabs for B Diphtheria	0	2	2
Sputa for B Tuberculosis	6	2	8
			10

Water Analysis.

Nil.

Birth and Death Rate, 1922-1926.

Year :—	1922	1923	1924	1925	1926
Birth Rate	20·7	19·9	19·7	16·9	19·6
England and Wales	20·6	19·7	18·8	18·3	17·8
Death Rate	12·2	13·0	12·9	12·5	12·6
England and Wales	12·9	11·6	12·2	12·2	11·6
Infant Mortality	67·7	63·1	62·1	62·1	64·2
England and Wales	77	69	75	75	70·0
Total Births	650	633	628	483*	529
Illegitimate	30	35	20	20	21
Total Deaths	391	414	413	356*	341

*Portion of area transferred April 1st, 1925.

Table Shewing the Number of Deaths from Certain Diseases during the Last 5 Years.

Year	1922	1923	1924	1925	1926	Total.
Small Pox	—	—	—	—	—	—
Scarlet Fever	—	—	—	—	—	—
Diphtheria	—	1	—	—	—	1
Enteric Fever	1	—	1	—	—	2
Measles	—	—	1	1	—	2
Whooping Cough	1	3	2	—	1	7
Diarrhoea (under 2 years)	2	—	2	4	2	10
Puerperal Fever	—	1	—	—	—	1
Cancer Malignant Disease	40	52	35	44	30	201
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	31	26	28	14	21	120
Other forms of Tuberculosis	4	7	7	10	6	34
Rare Diseases	1*	—	—	1†	—	2

*Poliomyelitis.
†Meningococcal Meningitis.

1926.—INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

Analysis of Cases and Resulting Deaths.

	Under 1 year	1 year	5 years	10 years	15 years	20 years	25 years	35 years	45 years	55 years	65 years & over
SCARLET FEVER											
Notifications 11	—	2	9	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Deaths ..... nil.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
DIPHTHERIA											
Notifications nil.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Deaths ..... nil.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
ENTERIC FEVER											
Notifications 1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
Deaths ..... nil.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
PNEUMONIA											
Notifications 11	1	2	2	—	—	1	—	2	2	—	1
Deaths 13	1	2	—	—	—	—	—	2	5	2	1

OPHTHALMIA NEONATORUM											
Notifications 2	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Deaths nil.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
ACUTE POLIOMYELITIS											
Notifications 2	—	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
Deaths nil.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
ENCEPHALITIS LETHARGICA											
Notifications 1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
Deaths nil.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
PUERPERAL FEVER											
Notifications 1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
Deaths nil.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
ERYSIPELAS											
Notifications 6	—	—	—	1	—	—	2	2	—	—	1
Deaths nil.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

Notifiable Diseases, 1922-1926.

Year :—	1922	1923	1924	1925	1926	Total
Small Pox	—	—	—	—	—	—
Scarlet Fever	49	69	23	10	11	162
Diphtheria	4	5	11	4	—	24
Enteric Fever	1	2	—	1	1	5
Puerperal Fever	—	1	1	—	—	2
Erysipelas	2	5	9	1	6	23
Pnuemonia	7	6	5	9	11	38
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	21	27	24	25	35	132
Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis	7	4	6	12	11	40

1926—Tuberculosis.

Age Period.	New Cases.				Deaths.			
	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F	M.	F.
0 Year	–	–	1	–	–	–	1	–
1	–	–	–	1	–	–	–	–
5	–	–	1	1	–	–	–	–
10	–	1	2	1	–	–	1	–
15	1	1	–	1	–	2	–	1
20	4	2	–	1	2	–	–	–
25	4	5	–	–	1	5	–	–
35	6	2	1	1	2	1	1	–
45	5	1	–	–	1	2	1	–
55	3	–	–	–	3	1	1	–
65 and upwards	–	–	–	–	–	1	–	–
Total.	23	12	5	6	9	12	5	1
			46				27	

Summary of Sanitary Work Carried out in the District for the Year Ending 31st December, 1926.

Water Certificates granted	96
Sewers cleansed and repaired	112
Petroleum stores inspected	91

JOHN W. SIMCOX, M.I.M. & C.E., M.S.I.A.

Sanitary Surveyor and Inspector.

Informal Notices issued	754
Statutory Notices issued	34
Dirty Houses cleansed	8
Overcrowding abated	2
Slaughter-house inspections	356
Tent and Vans inspections	30
Factory and Workshops inspections	64
Bakehouse inspections	47
Dairies and Cowsheds inspections	630
New Drains laid	139
Drains cleansed and repaired	122
Closet accommodation provided	31
Closets repaired, converted, etc.	119
Nuisances from keeping animals, etc.	5
Nuisances from accumulations	62
Wells repaired, cleansed, etc.	3
Cesspools cleansed	5
Houses disinfected	55
Samples of Water taken for analysis	1
Meat Inspection—Parts of Carcases condemed	1

SYDNEY P. BENDLE, A.R.San.I., M.S.I.A.

Sanitary Inspector.

Housing.

(a) Total number erected by private owners 96
(b) as part of the Council Housing Scheme Nil

1. *Unfit Dwelling Houses.*

Inspection—(1) Total number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects under Public Health and Housing Acts. 791

(2) Number of dwelling houses which were inspected under Housing (Inspection of District) Regulations, 1910 669

(3) Number of dwelling houses found to be in a state so dangerous as to be unfit for human habitation 8

(4) Number of dwelling houses (exclusive of those referred to under preceding sub-heading) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation 492

2. *Remedy of Defects without Service of formal Notice.*

Number of defective dwelling houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers. 261

3. *Action under Statutory Powers.*

A.—Proceedings under the Housing Act, 1925

(1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs 68

(2) Number of dwelling houses which were rendered fit :—

(a) by owners 41
(b) by Local Authority in default of owners Nil

(3)	Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Closing Orders became operative in pursuance of declaration by owners of intention to close	1

B.—Proceedings under Public Health Acts

(1)	Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	231
(2)	Number of dwelling houses in respect of which defects were remedied	
	(a) by owners	184
	(b) by Local Authority in default of owners	Nil

C.—Proceedings under Sections 11 and 14 of the Housing Act, 1925.

(1)	Number of representations made with a view to the making of Closing Orders	8
(2)	Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Closing Orders were made	7
(3)	Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the dwelling houses having been rendered fit	2
(4)	Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made	Nil
(5)	Number of dwelling houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders	Nil